



TOM TIFFANY

STATE SENATOR • 12TH SENATE DISTRICT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 7, 2015

State Senate Passes Budget

Madison, WI...Today, State Senator Tom Tiffany (R-Hazelhurst) of the 12th Senate District, voted for the 2015-17 state biennial budget. The state budget now moves on to the State Assembly before it makes its way to the Governor's desk for final approval. Senator Tiffany issued the following statement regarding his vote for the budget:

"From day one, my focus has been to help develop a state budget that builds upon our successes over the last four years, is balanced, and reflects the priorities of not only our state, but the Northwoods as well. We have accomplished these goals – we held the line on property taxes and we listened to constituent concerns.

We took the proposed budget and made significant improvements. Those improvements were based on public hearings and through the hundreds of e-mails and phone calls my office received.

SeniorCare was saved so seniors could continue to receive the prescriptions they need, and we came up with a new and improved plan to strengthen and sustain our long-term care program. More money was put into programs to help women with health screenings, and we allocated an addition \$650 million in Medical Assistance. We heard the call, and fulfilled our promise, to restore funding to K-12 education by putting over \$200 million back into education. We increased sparsity aid and boosted high-cost transportation aid to rural schools like the ones my children attend. We increased funding for grants to expand broadband in underserved areas, put money into the TEACH II program to help close the digital divide in some of our schools, and helped schools purchase equipment for fabrication laboratories.

As a result of today's budget vote, Wisconsin will continue to move forward with a balanced budget. I am pleased with the prudent and thoughtful changes the Joint Finance Committee made. My Republican colleagues and I took the concerns of the people seriously and passed a budget that is good for the State of Wisconsin."

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